

Matthew 5:1-3

Application Questions

1. The Sermon on the Mount has been called “The Kingdom Manifesto” or “The Manifesto of the King.” Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). How do you see the kingdom of heaven being manifested today? How do you expect to see it manifested in the future?
2. If you have the time (and you’d like extra credit), read Matthew 5-7 to get the sermon in its entirety. What are the various ways people have interpreted and applied this sermon? How do you interpret and apply it? What is its role in making disciples (see Matthew 28:19-20)?
3. Do you agree with the statement that the theme of the Sermon on the Mount is true righteousness (see Matthew 5:20)? Do you have trouble accepting that God holds us to this standard, not for justification (being declared righteous), but for sanctification (being progressively made righteous)? Why or why not? How did Jesus adhere to this standard of true righteousness?
4. One translation of the Greek word for “blessed” is “oh, how happy!” Read through the eight beatitudes (vv. 3-12). What is the world’s idea of happiness? What is your idea of happiness (be honest)? What is God’s idea of happiness?
5. In your own words, describe what it means to be poor in spirit (v. 3). Why do you think this is the point of entry for the kingdom of heaven?